

# Date Night

Play, Laugh, Dream, Adventure

By Ted Cunningham and Joshua Straub

# Date Night Ideas

**Play. Laugh. Dream. Adventure.**

## Play Dates.

1. Create a Love Playlist - You remember love tapes? You would record your favorite music and give to the one you were dating. Download your favorite love songs and create an actual playlist called "Love Playlist." It needs to have at least 4 or 5 songs. Don't stop with one playlist. Create a list together from each decade. You can date the playlists or even create different playlists for special occasions.
2. Plan a picnic—fill a basket or cooler with bread, goodies, cheese, fruit, drinks, etc. Grab a blanket and head to a park or lake.
3. Go to a coffee shop and take your own board games. Play checkers, cards, etc. while having coffee together.
4. Visit a zoo or museum.
5. Choose a favorite activity from your junior or senior high days. Bowling, roller skating, miniature golf, go-karts, etc.
6. Cook a multi-course meal. Play with various recipes and serve one course at a time. A great way to have fun with this is to prepare a five-course meal together with drinks. This will be a long meal. Make it as formal as you'd like or as informal and goofy as you'd like.
7. Go fishing this weekend. This is a great date whether you catch fish or not.
8. To add some random fun to your evening, go sing karaoke as loud as you can with people you've never met before.
9. Go on a picture date. Find random sites around your city and take pictures of one another. To add more fun to it, make a theme around your pictures. For instance, go out as a tourist. Or go out together as if you were living in the 1950's, dress the part, hit a diner and take fun pictures. You could also go as outdoorsy folks and take pictures in a Bass Pro Shops or wearing camouflage.

10. Decide on a new hobby or activity together and begin practicing. For instance, you may decide you're going to run a 10k or a marathon together. Start running together to train for it. Perhaps you're wanting to learn an instrument together. Sign up and begin taking lessons and practicing together.

## Play. 52 Questions.

1. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate our "playtime" together?
2. How are you feeling the grind of life this week?
3. What parts of your job are the most tedious and exhausting?
4. How long does it take you each night to unwind physically, emotionally, and relationally from work?
5. What are some escape mechanisms we use in the midst of the grind?
6. Why does play feel irresponsible to adults?
7. If you can't enjoy life, you can't enjoy your spouse. What can you do today to better appreciate and enjoy life? (This is a personal question, not a marriage question).
8. We need to spend \_\_\_\_\_ hours a week playing together.
9. If we only had 20 minutes to play, what should be our go-to activity?
10. What one leisure activity do you wish I would do with you more often?
11. Are there barriers to "play" that have preventing us from having fun together (e.g. attitudes, lack of similar interests, laziness, work schedule, kids, etc.)?
12. What are some creative ways of overcoming these barriers to increase play in our relationship?
13. Are there attitudes/ behaviors you see in me that make certain activities we do together not enjoyable for you (e.g. married to cell phone, poor attitude, etc.)?
14. What is the most frustrating thing I do when we try to do an activity together?
15. What one activity do you dislike doing that I really enjoy?
16. What could we do together to make that activity more enjoyable for you?
17. What is your best memory of a time we "played" together?
18. What one recreation do you most wish we would do together if we could do anything at all?
19. Is there a particular hobby you wish we could take up together?
20. Do you feel more satisfied by planned leisure activities or when we're spontaneous?
21. What activities make you feel most loved?
22. What can I do to make leisure together more enjoyable for you?

(Spontaneous Play)

23. What makes being spontaneous difficult for us?

24. How could we build some more spontaneity into our daily/ weekly routine?
25. What's the best memory you have of being spontaneous together?
26. Would you be willing to play or walk in the rain together?
27. Going skinny-dipping together would be \_\_\_\_\_.
28. What concerns would you have about dropping everything for a 2-3 day unplanned road trip out of town together, planning as you go?

(Daily Play)

29. Where in our daily routine do we have the most time for play?
30. What are some ways we could turn everyday household chores into a playful time together?
31. How could we add/ combine an exercise / fitness regiment where we're working out together a few times a week?
32. What activities do we currently do apart that we could start doing together more often (e.g. grocery shopping, cooking together, working out, etc.)
33. What are some creative ways we could redesign our house together?
34. Is there yard work, landscaping or gardening we could do together?
35. What hobby or activity do we have the most common interest in?
36. How can we implement that activity into our daily lives?

(Intentional Play)

37. On a scale of 1-10 how satisfied are you with how intentional I am at planning leisure activities?
38. What are some ways we can be more intentional at making playtime happen in our relationship?
39. What is your favorite season of the year for leisure activities?
40. If you could create a bucket list of 12 activities/ playtime experiences for the next year, what would you put on that list?
41. What are 3 activities you have done that you'd love for your spouse to try?
42. What do you think about planning a camping trip together this summer?
43. What are some memories you could create together by stretching the other person's skills and interests (e.g. teaching your husband to decorate, taking your wife along with you golfing, etc.)
44. Are there any sports you would enjoy playing or getting more involved in together?
45. What is an act of kindness or charity you could do for your neighbors?
46. What is your ideal night out?
47. What are your 3 most favorite restaurants?
48. What are your 3 most favorite desserts?
49. What are your 3 most favorite indoor recreational activities (e.g. movies, laser tag, karaoke, bowling, etc.)
50. What are your 3 most favorite outdoor recreational activities (e.g. hiking, fishing, miniature golf, swimming, etc.)

51. How do you feel about setting a goal together that will require playtime to accomplish that goal (e.g. training for and running a race together, taking dance lessons, taking a cooking class, etc.)
52. How could we spice up that particular room to make it more playful?

## Laugh Dates.

1. YoutubeDate-Spend an hour on Youtube watching great videos that will make you laugh. Here are a few to get you started:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yR0lWICH3rY>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RP4abiHdQpc>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NAFiU6bZ678>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mIMFL9wRaJE>
2. Meet for lunch or go to a coffee shop or somewhere you enjoy being together and take the Laugh questions and share stories with one another.
3. What's your favorite comedy of all time? Rent that movie for old time's sake and stay home together and laugh.
4. Book tickets to go see a comedian coming to the area.
5. Set a date night either together or with other couples and play "*Whose Line Is It Anyway.*" You can find a list of the games from the TV show by simply doing a Google search of the show. Have fun with the ad libs all night long.
6. Take a mini-road trip and do karaoke in the car. Sing your favorite songs as loud as you can. Sing the greatest duets of all time.  
  
 Here are 5 of Billboard's Top Duets of All Time:  
 #35 - I've Got You Babe (1965) Sonny and Cher  
 #31 - I Knew You Were Waiting (1987) Aretha Franklin/George Michael  
 #26 - I've Had the Time of My Life (1987) Bill Medley and Jennifer Warnes  
 #9 - Islands in the Stream (1983) Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton  
 #1 - Endless Love (1981) Diana Ross and Lionel Richie
7. Find an activity neither one of you are that good at and attempt it together. For instance, you could go roller skating, ice skating, kayaking, tandem biking, etc.
8. Take out the old yearbooks/annuals. Go through and laugh at yourself. Your dress, hairstyle, etc. Categorize and rank them. Ugliest hairdo. Most gaudy dress.

9. Sign up for a dance lesson. The dance instructor determines the level of fun. If he or she is super strict and serious, that gives less seasoned dancers something to laugh about. This date will force you out of your comfort zone.
10. Spend one hour at an arcade. After you get over your anger at the price of games these days, try some of the physical games (dancing, basketball shooting, skeeball, strength games). You'll get a laugh out of the competitive spirit that rises up in you.

### **Laugh. 52 Questions.**

1. In what areas of my life do I need to lighten up?
2. In what ways do I take myself too seriously?
3. Is there a vacuum of laughter in our home?
4. Think back to when you were in elementary school, what is the funniest experience you remember?
5. When was the last time you laughed so hard you cried?
6. Who is the funniest person you've ever met?
7. What is the craziest thing you ever did in a store?
8. When was the last time you tripped and fell in front of others?
9. Name the most embarrassing thing that's happened to you in the last year?
10. What is the funniest movie you've ever seen?
11. What is the most embarrassing thing you've ever done while playing with (our) kids?
12. Fastest way to make your kids laugh?
13. What makes you laugh the hardest?
14. What's the funniest thing I've ever said to you?
15. What is the funniest thing you've ever seen me do?
16. What is the grossest thing you've ever eaten?
17. When was the last time I really made you laugh?
18. Fill in the blank: I'm most fun to be around when I \_\_\_\_\_
19. What is the funniest thing you've ever heard our kids say?
20. When was the last time you had to bite your lip to keep from laughing?
21. What do you do or think about to keep from laughing at an inappropriate time?
22. Name the last time you laughed at a really inappropriate time.
23. Name the last time you busted out laughing in public.
24. Looking back at pictures from your younger days, what was the most embarrassing hairstyle you sported?
25. Most embarrassing outfit you've ever been caught wearing?
26. If you weren't worried about what other people thought, what is the one thing you wish you could do in public?
27. If you knew no one would see you, what dance would you do down the aisles of a store?

28. Your favorite but most embarrassing dance move?
29. Have you ever left the house forgetting an important article of clothing or had on two different shoes?
30. Name one song or movie you love but are embarrassed to admit.
31. What was the last time you were genuinely scared about something that turned out to be absolutely harmless?
32. What is the most embarrassing thing you've had to buy at a store?
33. Is there one photo of yourself that you laugh at every time you see it?
34. What's the silliest thing you remember us doing together?
35. What's the funniest license plate or bumper sticker you've ever seen?
36. Funniest moment in church?
37. If you didn't have to act your age for a day, what kid-like things would you love to do?
38. Have you ever laughed or wanted to laugh watching me sleep?
39. If you're having a bad day, what can I do to make you laugh?
40. What word do you think is just weird?
41. What's the most embarrassing gift you ever received but had to act like you liked it?
42. When you were in high school what did you wear that made you feel super cool but now is just embarrassing?
43. When was the last time the kids embarrassed you in public by something they said or did?
44. Have you ever sent a text/email to someone else that was supposed to go to me?
45. What's your funniest Christmas memory?
46. When was the last time we had a disagreement that ended in us laughing at ourselves?
47. Name something your parents said on a regular basis that drove you crazy but now makes you laugh.
48. When was the last time you saw a couple that wore matching outfits? Have we ever done that?
49. If I'm grumpy what's one thing you try to do to snap me out of it?
50. When you \_\_\_\_\_, I can't help but smile.
51. If your siblings were here and told a funny story about you, what would they say?
52. What's the most embarrassing thing you ever saw your parents do?

## **Dream Dates.**

1. Walk Down Memory Lane - Bust open those yearbooks and wedding albums. Discuss old friends, classes, favorite teachers, sports and clothing. And don't forget to admire those hairstyles. What do you miss about those days? What do you miss least? If you could go back, what would you change?

2. Coronation Date - Honor each other with the royal treatment. What does your spouse enjoy most? A back rub? Uninterrupted listening? A favorite movie? A favorite meal? Your answer to that question determines what you do on your date. Note: This date is actually two in one since each of you gets a turn receiving the royal treatment.
3. Plan an Annual Abandon - even though it may be years away, plan that trip you've dreamed of taking. Magazines and travel websites will help you with the planning. Once your budget is set, put a plan in place together to start saving money to take your dream trip.
4. Take a day and go house hunting. Again, look around at various homes and dream together. Find creative ways others decorate that you may want to implement in your own home.
5. Go to a coffee shop together after dinner and take the Dream questions along with you. With a piece of paper, begin writing down the dreams you want to begin pursuing for your marriage and family. After you have come up with an agreed upon list of answers, start putting on a paper a plan to begin living out those dreams together.
6. Have dinner in Italy. Or any of your favorite cities or countries. Transport the dream location to your own home. Set up décor to match the locale, dress as if you were in that city/country and cook the native cuisine.
7. If there is a hobby or activity you have always wanted to try, use this date night to give it a whirl. If you have never been bowling and would like to learn, give it a try. If it's building large puzzles, sit together and do a puzzle. Perhaps you have never crocheted before but always wanted to learn how. Research it and get the materials together to do it.
8. Set up a horseback riding adventure together and have a picnic along your route.
9. What is the most inspiring movie you have ever watched? A movie that makes you dream and come alive. Rent this movie and watch it together early in the evening. When you're finished with the movie, sit down together and use the passion and energy you have from watching the movie to dream together about your future as a couple and family.
10. Sit down together and put a list of everything you would love to do inside/ outside your home to make it more of what you want. Begin researching building supply stores to find out the costs of each item. You can also search blogs to find cheap ways to redecorate and refurnish to

give your home a makeover. Research these blogs together and use a date night to slowly begin a home makeover.

## **Dream. 52 Questions.**

1. At this point in your life, which would you choose to make your life better: better physical health, better relationships, more money, or different job?
2. If you could rewind to any point in your life, what would you want to relive? Would you enjoy it the same or change it?
3. What would you do if you didn't have to work?
4. What award would you like to win and for what achievement?
5. When do you feel most alive?
6. If you could try out any occupation for a year, what would it be?
7. How would you spend a perfect day alone?
8. You must choose four vacations—all expenses paid, of course—to take with your spouse. Each has a theme: Most Romantic, Most Fun, Most Adventurous, Most Relaxing. Where would you go for each?
9. What would you do with ten million dollars?
10. If you could take lessons to become an expert at anything, what would it be?
11. Hollywood called. They want to make a movie about you. What would it be about and who would play you?
12. If you could be a professional athlete, regardless of age or physical ability, what sport do you think you would enjoy the most?
13. Describe your dream house?
14. If you could have dinner with three famous people, living or dead, who would they be?
15. Name something you love that no one else seems to love. Or vice versa, name something everyone seems to love except you.
16. Of the following adventures, which would you choose first and why? a) snow skiing; b) dinner at five-star restaurant; c) spelunking; d) movie night; e) pro sports event; or f) camping?
17. If you could have a superhero power, what would it be?
18. Sing the chorus or one line of your spouse's favorite love song.
19. What's the greatest invention of your lifetime?
20. What TV sitcom family would you be a member of?
21. What is one item you know you should get rid of but never will?
22. What were your favorite toys as a child?
23. Where do you most enjoy sitting outside your house?
24. Name three countries you'd like to visit.
25. What celebrity annoys you most?
26. Describe your dream car.
27. What causes the most stress or conflict in your marriage: financial decisions, sexual expectations, parenting styles, value differences?
28. What positive thing do you not say enough to your spouse?

29. What would you do with your spouse for the next ten years if you knew they were your last?
30. Name one way your spouse makes you feel secure.
31. Name one thing you miss about your dating relationship.
32. How would you describe your spouse to a stranger?
33. What is the sweetest thing your spouse has ever said to you?
34. If you had an entire day to spend alone with your spouse, how would you spend it?
35. Who proposed, and how was it done?
36. What's the most romantic scene from a movie you can think of?
37. What is your perfect Valentine's Day date?
38. What's the most romantic season of the year?
39. How would you like people to describe you at your funeral?
40. Tell about an experience that was difficult but necessary in making you the person you are today.
41. What is your religious background? In what way has it affected you most?
42. If you wrote a book about your life, what would it be called?
43. What makes you most humble?
44. Name a song that you could really relate to at some point in your life?
45. What scares you the most?
46. What is the most honest thing you have ever done?
47. What's the best advice someone ever gave you?
48. What makes you most uncomfortable: being around new people, formal occasions, speaking to a large group?
49. Tell about a favorite childhood memory you made with your family.
50. Name two or three dreams you and your spouse have for the empty-nesting years. Where will you live? Where will you visit? How will you serve the church? What will your retirement years look like?
51. What dreams do we have for our kids?
52. What are a few areas in our home we can change to begin developing a deeper love and heart for the world?

## **Adventure Dates.**

1. Get in a 5k run, walk or hike. You can break it up into one mile increments, so long as you get in the 3.1 miles. This week is designed to get you off the couch and get the blood flowing.
2. Get out of your comfort zone together and enjoy the adventure of serving alongside each other. As a couple, volunteer in your community. Serve together at church, sign up for a short term missions trip or volunteer for a local shelter.
3. Go to a professional or collegiate sporting event together. If you know nothing about the sport or the event, even better. Stretch yourself for the adventure and try to find the lure behind the event.

4. Make a list of the 5 most popular local attractions in your area you have yet to visit. Then rank them in order of popularity or personal interest. Make your list and ranking separate from your spouse, then compare lists.
5. If we only had \$10 to spend tonight and we had the whole night together, we would \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Save money and live your local dream date night. What restaurant would you most like to go to? What activity, show or event would you attend yet never allow yourself to spend the money on? Pamper yourselves.
7. Choose a type of food you have you never tried (e.g. Thai, Mexican, Indian, etc.) and go out to that restaurant together. Be risky with your choice on the menu. Don't be afraid to try something new. Remember, it's about adventure.
8. Is there an activity, sport or hobby neither one of you are that good at but would love to try together? Step out of your comfort zones and give it a try. You could go shooting at a gun range, ice skating, kayaking, dance lessons, etc.
9. Take a night and rearrange the furniture in your house. Go around and try new concepts and ideas for seeing your home differently. Leave it this way for a few weeks. If you don't like it you can change it back.
10. Dig out old family pictures and videos. Go through each of them and reminisce on old adventures you had together or as a family. Use it a catalyst to begin talking about and planning your next big adventure together.

### **Adventure. 52 Questions.**

1. On a scale of 1-10, how adventurous is our life together?
2. Would you call me adventurous?
3. What is the last totally spontaneous thing we've done together?
4. What do you think of when you think of adventure?
5. Do I have any adventures personally that you feel get in the way of us as a couple (e.g. hunting, shopping, golf, watching sports, etc.)
6. As your spouse, how can I help you be more adventurous?
7. The biggest barrier to adventure in our marriage is \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Some creative ways to work around or overcome that barrier include \_\_\_\_\_.
9. When it comes to adventure in our marriage, I feel most loved when you\_\_\_\_\_.

10. Did you ever see your parents being adventurous?
11. Who in your life has shown you a great example of being adventurous?
12. When was the last time you felt really brave?
13. When was the last time you saw me do something courageous?
14. When was the last time we took a big risk as a couple?
15. What is your favorite action/adventure movie?
16. Before I turn \_\_\_\_\_ years old, I want to \_\_\_\_\_
17. Have you ever done something you were really scared to do, just to impress me?
18. When was the last time you felt genuinely scared?
19. What is your biggest fear?
20. Have you ever been in a situation where you wondered if you would actually survive?
21. When was the last time you felt truly alive?
22. If you could try at least one Extreme sport, what would it be (e.g. skydiving, snowboarding, bungee jumping, scuba diving, etc.)
23. What one outdoor activity would you like me to try?
24. The only thing keeping me from exercising more is \_\_\_\_\_.
25. Create a bucket list of 5 outdoor adventures you could accomplish together in the next year (e.g. horseback riding, 4-wheeler riding, snowmobiling, water skiing, etc.)
26. Create a bucket list of outdoor adventures you would like accomplish together in the next 5 years (e.g. skydiving, surfing, scuba diving, go on a safari, etc.)
27. What activity/sport/hobby brings out a competitive, adventurous, tenacious spirit in you?
28. Create a bucket list of 5 of the world's most iconic places you would like to visit.
29. Where in the world are you most afraid to go?
30. Would you ever be willing to travel there? Why or why not?
31. If we sold all we owned and took off on an adventure for one year, where would we go and what would we do?
32. If we could save money and travel abroad, what one place would you like to visit? (Go ahead and start planning it)
33. Is there a long weekend available for you to plan a road trip together?
34. If you could go away by car for a long weekend, where would you go? Where would you stay? What would you do?
35. If you could go away by plane for a long weekend, where would you go? Where would you stay? What would you do?
36. What are the 5 most popular local attractions in your area you have yet to visit?
37. If we only had \$10 to spend tonight and we had the whole night together, we would \_\_\_\_\_.
38. If money were not an issue, what would your dream date night look like? What restaurant would you most like to go to? Activity?

39. What type of food have you never tried (e.g. Thai, Mexican, Indian, etc.) but would be willing to try together?
40. Is there an activity, sport or hobby neither one of you are that good at but would love to try together?
41. Think of a scene from one of your favorite movies and act it out together.
42. When was the last time you had a dance party together in your kitchen? Go for it!
43. When was the last time we chased each other around the house like a bunch of kids?
44. Would you be willing to rearrange our entire house in a very unique way just for something different?
45. What is your gut reaction when church leaders ask us to serve?
46. When was the last time you wanted to respond to a need in our church or community but delayed, procrastinated or flat out rejected it?
47. If I could serve anywhere in our church, I would serve \_\_\_\_\_.
48. I have never consider serving on a short term trip in a foreign country because I feel \_\_\_\_\_.
49. If I had \_\_\_\_\_, I would give more at church.
50. Let's begin regularly praying for the following 3 ministries at our church.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
51. What is your greatest fear about getting more involved at church?
52. How would you feel if I committed more at church?